DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 439 037 SO 030 775

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TITLE Teaching about Hungarian and Polish Heroes. Fulbright-Hays Summer Seminars Abroad Program, 1998 (Hungary/Poland).
SPONS AGENCY Center for International Education (ED), Washington, DC.
PUB DATE 1998-00-00
NOTE 20p.; For other projects from the 1998 Hungary/Poland program, see SO 030 773-781.
PUB TYPE Guides - Classroom - Teacher (052) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Area Studies; *Cultural Context; *European History; Foreign Countries; High Schools; Social Studies; Thematic Approach
IDENTIFIERS Fulbright Hays Seminars Abroad Program; Heroes; *Hungary; *Poland

ABSTRACT

This curriculum project about the history and culture of Hungary and Poland is intended for secondary school students. The project features a unit called "Heroes in Our Lives" and points out the sacrifices a few individuals have made for the betterment of all. Students identify heroes and learn about the impact these heroes have made on history and on society. Hungarian heroes discussed in the unit are: King Stephen I, Imre Nagy, Ferenc Rakoczi, and Louis Kossuth. Polish heroes discussed are: J. Pitsudski, Tadeusz Kosciuszko, Janusz Korczak, Pope John Paul II, and Lech Walesa; other heroes discussed are Raoul Wallenberg, the 1956 Hungarian Freedom Fighters, and the Solidarity Workers. Teaching methods for the unit include lecture and discussion, a slide presentation on heroic sites, selected readings, poetry, group activities, and an essay accompanied by an oral presentation on heroes in society and heroes in each individual's life. (BT)

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Teaching about Hungarian and Polish Heroes. Fulbright-Hays Summer Seminar Abroad Program 1998 (Hungary/Poland).

by

Janet Radkey

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Fulbright - Hays Summer Seminars Abroad Curriculum Project
submitted by Janet Radkey
Participant in the Hungary - Poland Seminar - 1998

OBJECTIVES :

 # 1 -Students understand how economic, political, cultural and social processes interact to shape patterns of human populations, interdependence, conflict, and cooperation in our ever-changing world.

 # 2 - Students understand the chronological organization of history and know how to group people and events into major eras to identify and explain historical relationships.

 # 3 - Students identify heroes in their lives and understand the relevance of heroes to history and society.

 # 4 - Students understand the history and culture of Central Europe.

STRATEGIES :

Teaching in a secondary school with a variety of learning levels requires a variety of teaching methods. This unit on "Heroes in Our Lives" will attempt to point out the sacrifices a few have made for the betterment of all. I want each student to experience the emotion of having a hero and appreciating the impact heroes make on history and on society.

Teaching methods will include lecture and discussion, a slide presentation on heroic sites, selected readings, poetry, group activities and an essay accompanied by an oral presentation on heroes in society and heroes in each individual's life.

Students will also experience the richness of Hungarian and Polish culture through food preparation and tasting accompanied by folk music of Hungary and Poland.

Students will be "introduced" to several Hungarian and Polish heroes.
those people to be studied and discussed will be :

Hungarians : King Stephen I, Imre Nagy, Ferenc Rakoczi, Louis Kossuth, The 1956 Hungarian Freedom Fighters and the Swedish-born Raoul Wallenberg who helped Hungarians escape Nazi persecution.

Poles : J. Pitsudski, Kosciuszko, Janusz Korczak, Pope John Paul II, Lech Walesa and the Solidarity Workers.

* Students will discuss those characteristics they belief are necessary for a person to possess before he/she can be considered heroic.

*Students will research historical events in American history that exhibit the

importance of hero worship in our society and our culture.
*Students will compare their findings to the events that created the great heroes of Hungary and Poland.
*Students will discuss in groups why heroes are vital for the survival of individual cultures and sovereign nations.
* Students will discover the impact of Hungarian and Polish heroes on world history.
* Students will research the connections between Hungary, Poland and the United States throughout history and our "shared" heroes.

MATERIALS :

Primary Sources

1. Lecture - The History of Hungary - "Heroes and Scapegoats" Prof. Attila Pok (Hungarian Academy of Sciences). Budapest 24. June 1998
2. Lecture - Ethnic Minorities in Hungary and the Holocaust - Dr. Borisz Szegal (Eotvos Lorand Univ. of Science) Budapest 30. June 1998
3. Lecture - "The Hungarian Mystery" - Patterns of Immigration Dr. Tibor Frank (Eotvos Lorand University of Science) Budapest 1. July 1998
4. Sightseeing - Heroes Square, Monument to Raoul Wallenberg, Holocaust Tree streets of Budapest where 1956 Freedom-Fighters marched in protest of Soviet rule.

5. Visit to Kerepesi Cemetery guided by Dr. Tibor Frank. The cemetery is the final resting place for numerous Hungarian heroes including Lajos Kossuth.

6. Lecture - Polish History - Prof. Adam Walaszek (Jagiellonian University) Krakow 13. July 1998.

7. Lecture - "Polish Society in Transition" - Prof. Jacek Wasilewski (Jagiellonian University) Krakow 15. July 1998.

8. Lecture- "Church and State Relations - Mr. Adam Szostkiewicz Krakow 16. July 1998.

9. On sight visit - Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp 17. July 1998.

10. Lecture - " Communism, Solidarity and the New Social Order : Polish Workers Yesterday and Tomorrow" - Prof. Jacek Wasilewski (Jagiellonian University) Krakow 20. July 1998.

11. Interview - Mr. Andrezej Jonas Editor - In Chief, The Warsaw Voice 24. July 1998.

12. Visit to the Gdansk Shipyards, birthplace of Solidarity Movement.

13. Krakow sightseeing - emphasis on role of Pope John Paul II and the Catholic Church in Polish history - Dr. Kazimierz Baran (Jagiellonian University) Krakow 15. July 1998.

14. Lecture - " Poland's History and Culture " - Dr. Dorota Gostynska (Polish Academy of Science) Warsaw 27. July 1998.

15. Slides taken and purchased during Fulbright-Hays seminar - summer 1998

Secondary Sources

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4. Molnar, Eva. Hungary : Essential Facts, Figures and Pictures. Budapest : Kossuth Printing House Co. 1997.

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6. Michener, James A. The Bridge At Andau . New York : Fawcett Crest Publishing. 1957.

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9. Korczak, Janusz. When I Am Little Again & the Child's Right To Respect. New York : University Press of America. 1991.

10. Swiebocki, Teresa and Henryk. Auschwitz : Voices From The Ground. Milan, Italy : Milanostama. 1995.

11. Gielzynski ,Wojciech. Poland. Warsaw : Parma Press. 1997.

12. Szilagyi, Janos Gyorgy. " A Forty-Eighter's Vita Contemplativa". The Hungarian Quarterly Spring 1998 3 -17.

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14. Davies, Norman. Heart Of Europe: A Short History of Poland. Oxford, England: Oxford University Press. 1986.

15. Davies, Norman. In God's Playground Vol. 2 : 1795 to the Present. New York : Columbia University Press. 1984.

16. Michener, James A. Poland. Chicago : MacMillan Library Reference. 1983.

17. Paul II, John. Crossing The Threshold Of Hope. New York : Random House Inc. 1994.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION :

Heroes in History - Why are they important ?

Heroes in History - Why does a society need them ?

Heroes in History - How are heroes an integral part of culture and heritage ?

Heroes in History - Who are the great heroes of Hungary ? Who are the great heroes of Poland ? How do Poland and Hungary's heroes compare to the great heroes of the United States ?

Heroes in History - How do ordinary people fight to end Nazi oppression and save the lives of the innocent ?

Heroes in History - How did the heroes of the 1956 Revolution in Hungary help lay the foundation for democracy and the transition to a market economy in the 1990s ?

Heroes in History - How did the heroes of the Solidarity Movement help Poland gain its freedom from Russian communism ?

BACKGROUND NOTES:

Teachers preparing lessons on Hungary and Poland must research the rich history and culture of these countries. These nations have long intense histories and they have deep ties to the United States.

Hungary and Poland will enter NATO in April of 1999 and it will be essential that Americans have a better understanding of these exciting members of Central Europe.

The United States has received thousands of Hungarian and Polish immigrants throughout the past two centuries and many U.S. communities have significant Central European populations. Hungarian - Americans had a vested interest in the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and many were outraged that the U.S. failed to send more than verbal support. When the Hungarian Revolution was suppressed many Hungarian-Americans feared freedom would never return to their homeland.

In 1978 President Jimmy Carter returned the royal Hungarian crown of St. Stephen to Budapest. The crown (see attached photo) had been kept at Ft. Knox, Kentucky since the end of World War II. Carter's decision to return the crown while Hungary was still until Soviet control was considered a mistake by many Hungarian-Americans. They believed the crown should remain in the United States until Hungary was free once again.

In 1978 I visited Hungary for the first time and was able to see St. Stephen's crown for a brief moment. The Soviet authorities restricted access to the crown which was housed in the Hungarian National Museum. In June I returned to the museum just minutes before closing time and the guards were very accommodating and allowed us access to the crown even though this part of the museum had been closed for the day. It was quite enlightening to witness such a change and difference in attitude.

During the socialist era in Hungary 85% of men were working and 78% of women were working. During this era there were no checking accounts or ATM machines. Today most transactions are still done with cash and ATMs. The demise of

socialism has opened up endless opportunities for Hungarian youth. Computers are abundant and opportunity continues to grow. Those hurt by the demise of socialism are the pensioners and the undereducated. Salaries in Hungary remain low, only 0ne-tenth of a typical German salary. Begging is a common sight and many Gypsies continue their efforts to support themselves by leading a life of crime.

Hungarian history is long, rich and filled with heroes.

The Magyars settled Hungary in 896 and laid the foundation for this dynamic nation. Magyar is referred to as the"group of people who could speak an acceptable language". The closest relatives to the Magyars are the Finns so some common bonds link their languages together. No other language aside from Finnish remotely resembles Hungarian.

The first of many Hungarian heroes is Istvan (Stephen). Istvan was a member of the Arpad ruling family and he became Hungary's first and most important king. A national holiday is celebrated on 20. August every year to honor King Stephen. Stephen laid the foundation for Hungary culture and national identity. Budapest's "Heroes Square" gives Stephen a place of honor that will forever remind Hungarians of his significance as a great Hungarian hero. Stephen's reign lasted for over four decades therefore he was able to develop stability and continuity in the Hungarian nation. Stephen strengthen the Christian church in Hungary and when he was canonized by the Catholic church he laid the foundation for a faith that still represents the majority of the Hungarian population. Stephen established ten bishoprics and granted generous privileges and estates to the Roman Catholic church. He founded Abbeys and monasteries and endorsed the Benedictine order most in his efforts to build a Catholic state.

Stephen not only laid the foundation for the Catholic Church in Hungary. He established counties organized on a territorial basis- which remain today as important administrative units in Hungary and he transformed the organization of the Hungarian army. Stephen's royal council, set up on the basis of foreign models, strengthened the central power in Hungary.

Stephen remains the most significant figure in Hungarian history today. The Christian Kingdom founded by King Stephen survived for nearly one thousand years, actually until 1918. The tragedy of his forty-one reign is that only one child of his reached adulthood. This one son died young but more importantly was supposed to have led such a saintly life that he never consummated his marriage and therefore had no heirs to follow the great King Stephen.

Hungarians today remain loyal to the memory of King Stephen. Stephen is a genuine hero that all Hungarian children learn about in school. Budapest recognizes his greatness not only at Heroes Square but also with a large cathedral that bears his name. St. Stephen's church has a shrine that contains what is believed to be Stephen's right hand.

Ferenc Rakoczi is a Hungarian hero comparable to King Stephen. Rakoczi fought for Hungarian nationalism and self-determination against the powerful Hapsburg dynasty. Rakoczi was regarded by Hungarians as far-sighted and flawless during his 17 the and early 18th century rule. He was a religious zealot and therefore only spent two days of his week managing stately affairs. The rest was spent in prayer. Despite his religious devotion he did manage to run the country successfully and efficiently. He was a superb organizer, was keenly inquisitive and very well read.

Rakoczi witnessed the declining income of Hungarian mines and quickly transformed the gold standard. The "gold" of Hungary became its prized Tokay wines. Today the wines of Hungary remain world renowned. Some Tokays sell for hundreds of dollars a bottle worldwide and this "gold" of Hungary continues to help support the Hungarian economy.

Rakoczi supported the rebellious poor in their efforts against the Hapsburg dynasty. This would eventually drive him into exile in France. By 1717 Rakoczi went to Turkey hoping to gain the Sultan's support in his quest for Hungarian autonomy. He was unsuccessful.

In the year of 1848 many countries in Europe prepared for change. This change inspired revolution throughout western and central Europe. Hungary was amongst those nations seeking change and reform. Lajos Kossuth played a paramount role in the Hungarian Revolution of 1848. Lajos Kossuth perceived the symptoms and consequences of stagnant social development in Hungary and was determined to bring change to his nation. He was an excellent orator and prepared magnificent speeches that attacked the inequities of life in 19th century Hungary.

Kossuth said " What do the Hungarian people want ? Let peace, liberty and harmony prevail !" He supported the abolition of censorship and a free press in Hungary, civil and religious equality before the law, a joint sharing of tax burdens, juries and representation on an equal basis, a national bank and the freeing of political prisoners. Kossuth's desires reflect those of the founding fathers in American history. The struggles of the 1848 revolution impacted the U.S. greatly. Immigrants from all over Europe flocked to the U.S. for liberty and freedom when their

revolutionary efforts were suppressed. A statute of Janos Kossuth stands as a symbol of freedom in Washington D.C. today.

Kossuth endorsed a national song by Sandor Petofi to accompany Kossuth's *Twelve Points* of freedom. The song opens with the following words :

"Rise Hungarians, your country calls !
The time is now, now or never !
Shall we be slaves or free ?
This is the question, choose !
To the God of the Hungarians
We swear,
We swear we shall slaves no longer be "!

Lajos Kossuth was a major force in the Hungarian Revolution of 1848. He held political and military office in Hungary and ranks amongst Hungary's greatest heroes.

World War II had devastating effects on Hungary. Hungary allied with Nazi Germany mainly because Hitler promised the return of lost lands if Hungary agreed to the alliance. Hungary already had a history of anti-semitism so the passage of anti-Jewish laws did not seem earth shattering to many Hungarians. The Hungarians tried to defend their alliance with Germany on the premise that if Germany was not an ally, it would invade Hungary and destroy all the Jews. As an ally Hungarians could provide some protection for their Jewish population. In 1944 Hungary was occupied by Germany. World War II would end in Europe in May of 1945 but not before the Nazis would send 500-600 Hungarian Jews to concentration camps. Sixty-five percent of the Jewish population of Hungary perished in the Holocaust . An "adopted" Hungarian hero was Raoul Wallenberg. Wallenberg was a Swede and a non-Jew but he is remembered as a hero amongst Hungary's Jewish population for dedicating his life towards saving Hungarian Jews during WWII. Today Budapest honors Wallenberg with a large monument on the Buda side of the river Danube and a street named in his honor near the Parliament building located on the Pest side of the Danube. Behind the large Jewish synagogue , not far from Rakoczi Street stands a large tree with stainless steel leaves. Etched on the leaves are names of Holocaust victims- a shocking reminder to the world of the price paid by Hungarians who met their fate at the hands of the Nazis. Many more names would have been etched on the tree had it not been for the efforts of Raoul Wallenberg. Although Wallenberg was not a Jew or a Hungarian, he will long be remembered as a hero of the Hungarian people.

The "Hungarian Freedom Fighters" of 1956 must also be given the status of

heroes. Students not much older than my high school students today fought and died to bring an end to oppression in Hungary. American students are fortunate to be protected by the U.S. Constitution. Hungarian students under Soviet occupation were unable to experience the blessings of liberty and freedom that we so often take for granted.

The Hungarian Revolution of October 1956 involved mass gatherings of students demonstrating their sympathy for Poland. Poles were demanding greater rights and faced severe persecution by their Soviet rulers. In the process, Hungarian demands for democratic reforms arose. The actual student uprisings in Budapest were not designed to rid the country of socialism but rather to drive out foreign oppression and bring about national independence for Hungary. Bloody battles broke out throughout Budapest as students fought against Soviet troops. Many buildings along Budapest's streets still show visible signs of the revolution. Bullet holes in the buildings are vivid reminders that the Soviet troops meant business. A crisis in the Middle East kept the western focus on that part of the world so the soviets gave a final crushing blow to the citizens of Budapest in November of 1956. The crushed revolution was followed by the execution of 229 people, young and old alike. Imre Nagy, who helped lead the Anti-Soviet revolt was also executed. Approximately 500 people died during the revolution and thousands were imprisoned. By the end of 1956 approximately 200,000 refugees fled Hungary and settled elsewhere in the world.

The Freedom Fighters will long be remembered for the sacrifice they made to make life better for all Hungarians. Although the revolution was crushed by Soviet tanks, life in Hungary did get better after 1956. The Soviet government realized that these dynamic and strong-willed Hungarians would rise against the Soviet Union again when the opportunity allowed.

Teachers teaching Hungarian and Polish history and heroes should be aware of the links that exist between Hungary and Poland. In the past Poland was ruled by a Hungarian monarch. Both Hungary and Poland struggled to rid their nations of the oppressive communist regime of the Soviet Union and their efforts impacted each other greatly. Today Hungary and Poland are tied together with trade through the European Union as well as prospective members of NATO in 1999. Both Hungary and Poland continue to struggle for financial success and recognition by their rich German and other Western European neighbors.

Poland has a long history of heroes and struggles. Many Americans may not be aware of the fact that Poland was the first nation on the Continent of Europe to adopt a

democratic Constitution. In essence it resembles the Constitution constructed by America's own founding fathers and heroes of the American Revolution. Poland tried desperately to maintain its status as a free nation but partitions by more powerful neighbors made this quite impossible.

One of Poland's early heroes (a hero for the Americans as well) is General Tadeusz Kosciuszko. Kosciuszko was dedicated to the Polish cause of independence and he fought numerous battles for his homeland. He and his followers became folk heroes and many became martyrs fighting under the banner of " YOUR FREEDOM AND OURS". In 1794 Kosciuszko launched a national uprising to right Poland's wrongs. Unfortunately the uprising failed and Poland was partitioned in 1795. As a result Poland disappeared from the map of Europe. The next two hundred years would be spent trying to regain Polish autonomy. Americans will forever remember General Kosciuszko as a patriot in the American Revolution. Sympathetic to the cause of freedom and individual liberty Tadeusz Koscisuzko fought valiantly for the Patriots against British oppression at the Battle of Saratoga. This battle proved to be the pivotal point of the American Revolution. Victory at Saratoga gained for the Colonial army control of the Hudson River and the promise from France of much needed help to the Americans. Koscisuzko along with other European supporters of democratic ideals became American heroes. These brave men sacrificed a part of their life and the comforts of their homeland to help America achieve its independence from Great Britain.

Another champion of Polish ideals and a early 20th century Polish hero is Josef Piludski. Holding fast to the democratic principles of 18th century Poland, Piludski lead a social struggle of great magnitude following WWI. Piludski favored a Constitutional Republic that would settle issues that included : border disputes, economic problems and the restoration of Polish industry. Poland witnessed the destruction of their industry and looting of raw materials by the Germans during WWI. For Poland to regain a strong position in Central Europe, its economy must be restored and revitalized.To regain strength for Poland Piludski did assume near dictatorial powers. He fought desperately to keep Poland out of Russian hands. His impact was so significant on Polish beliefs and principles that years later the "Solidarity" movement would use his speeches as a model for unity and reform.

As a student of history I have always been somewhat aware of the struggles and sacrifices made by the Polish people in an effort to protect their sovereignty. My weeks in Poland this summer convinced me that everything I had read about the

strength and perseverance of the Polish people was true. Geographically speaking Poland lies in the marching zone between east and west. As a result of geographic location, this culturally rich and very beautiful nation has been marched across, partitioned and destroyed on numerous occasions. Each time the Polish people rose up to restore and rebuild their nation once again. Today the old city center of Warsaw is restored to its original Medieval style architecture. Museums once again display the treasures of ages gone by and remind visitors of the price paid by the nation of Poland in its long struggle for autonomy. In a way the entire Polish nation reflects heroism.

One of the greatest of Polish heroes was Janusz Korczak. Until I went to Poland I had little knowledge of this magnificent hero. Korczak was a Jewish doctor and a rather prominent member of Warsaw society in the years prior to and during WWII. Korczak operated an orphanage in the Warsaw ghetto where he served as doctor, teacher, counselor and parent to hundreds of Jewish orphans. He encouraged the children to learn as much as they could and he inspired in all the children a feeling of self-worth and dignity. Every child was important to Korczak and every child was given an opportunity to learn and develop into a successful adult. This inspirational man restored hope in "his" children during the most desperate of times and encouraged them to be faithful and optimistic even during the worst times. Dr. Korczak had numerous opportunities to leave the orphanage when it became quite evident what the Nazis intended to do with the orphanage and its children, but he refused. He believed as long as he was there to lift the childrens' spirits, they would not live in fear. Janusz Korczak died with the children of his orphanage at Treblinka extermination camp. Even in death he remains an inspiration to teachers worldwide. His childrens stories and books about child-rearing are a constant reminder of his love and devotion to the children of the Warsaw ghetto. Today an orphanage continues to operate in the same building where Korczak worked day by day with the orphans of the Warsaw ghetto. A large statute of Korczak sits in front of the building and a small museum is run by the present-day teachers at the orphanage. The Jewish cemetery in Warsaw also has a large statute of Janusz Korczak holding and leading the children in route to the train that would take them to Treblinka and into eternity. I visited with a Auschwitz survivor (who now lives in Michigan) Maria Moscicki who told me she recalled seeing some of the "Korczak Children" respectfully traveling in blue berets to meet their fate. She said the faces of the those children could never be forgotten.

Janusz Korczak is a true hero for all of mankind. He found the best in people and encouraged it. he restored faith and hope in the minds of the innocent when the

lights were going out all over Poland.

When looking to Poland for heroes one must also include Pope John Paul II. Former bishop of Krakow, John Paul became the first Polish Pope ever. John Paul II was a monumental figure in focusing the eyes of the world on Poland. Poland was inspired by John Paul II to look for a future free of communist rule by the Soviet Union. While in Krakow this summer, we were told by many noted Polish intellectuals that the demise of the Berlin Wall and the restoration democracy in Poland can be attributed to the efforts of not only the "Solidarity" workers but also Pope John Paul II and President Ronald Reagan.

Poland is a strong Catholic country proud of the fact that a Pole holds the most powerful position in the Catholic church today. We visited the village of Czestochowa in July and witnessed the strength of the Catholic Church in Poland today. Hundreds of pilgrims visit the church that contains the icon known as the *Black Madonna of Czestochowa* . Many of the pilgrims suffer from handicaps and remain at prayer for hours hoping for a miracle. Czestochowa also contains the sash worn by the Pope when he survived an assassination attempt on his life. All around the giant cathedral people gather to pay homage to their Pope and their church. I watched two elderly ladies having lunch outside the church and was reminded by the unforgettable tattoo on their arms of the impact of Nazi atrocities on all Polish people.

The Polish Constitution claims that Poland is a nation dedicated to the separation of church and state relations. My experience tells me this is not always the case. Religious paintings and crucifixes continue to adorn many government and commercial buildings. Many Polish people believe the Catholic Church is much too powerful a source in their lives. This accounts for the loss of popularity of Solidarity Union leader Lech Walesa amongst many Poles today. However, many Poles believe the Catholic Church is the one constant force that unites all Poles today. Many believe that Pope John Paul II is not only instrumental in helping to bring about Polish independence but also that he has been a driving force throughout the world. His outspoken stands on marriage, divorce and abortion have convinced many Poles that he is a true defender of the faith and a hero in their eyes.

It is impossible to teach about Polish heroes without recognizing the efforts of the Solidarity workers and their leader, Lech Walesa. While visiting the Gdansk shipyards in late July I was in awe of the tremendous Solidarity memorabilia that one can see at the shipyards. To walk through the rooms amongst the chairs and tables where Walesa negotiated with the communist leadership is truly incredible. I recall

seeing the protests and marches on television but it was so very powerful to walk through the the gates of the former Lenin Shipyards and see for myself where it all began.

Many of the intellects and Polish elite that we visited with during our stay were former members of Solidarity and played a vital role in the union's success in the 1980s. It was incredible to visit with them and have them share their experiences with us. Because the Catholic Church was a strong force in fighting Soviet communism in Poland most Solidarity meetings were held in the churches of Krakow, Katowice, Warsaw and Gdansk.

Lech Walesa remains in American hearts a hero today. We see Walesa as someone who sacrificed so much to champion the cause of democracy in Poland. Many Poles look at Walesa differently today. They see Walesa as someone who went too far. Walesa's strong ties with the Catholic church are viewed by some Poles as extreme. Some Poles think the church wants to be involved in every aspects of an individual's life and they resent this. Some say, "the Church in Poland resembles the Catholic Church in Ireland - powerful and very controlling of individual lives". Despite the fact that many Poles dislike Walesa today, he remains in my mind a hero. He was instrumental in organizing Polish workers and uniting the entire nation and the free world in a movement that resulted in Polish freedom. Poland cannot forget that Walesa was and still remains a hero to many. Democracy is not an easy thing to achieve and the capitalistic economic system that is linked to democracy takes time to work. Many Polish people continue to struggle financially. A vast number of subsistence and small commercial farmers will be forced to change occupations to comply with European Union specifications. This is painful to Poland's rural population. The transition to democracy is also painful to the poor, elderly and undereducated. Many Poles remain dependent on government programs and become frustrated and disenchanted with the intelligencia that has blossomed so much under capitalism. Polish economic advisors informed us that it will be ten years before Poland reaches the economic level of countries like Italy or Portugal. It appears to me that they have already reached this level ! Many Poles appear optimistic about the future and thankful to the heroes of Solidarity.

Heroes are a driving force in the lives of people worldwide. I want my students to understand the sacrifice a few have made for the betterment of all . "Introducing" them to Hungarian and Polish heroes will make it easier for them to decide what characteristics are shared by all heroes. Students will then be able to decide who their

heroes are and why. Students will also learn cultural aspects of Hungarian and Polish society as we study these countries heroes. As a class we will prepare and cook traditional Hungarian and Polish cuisine in an effort to make the study of these vibrant "new' nations a hands on unforgettable experience.

Assessments :

Student will be assessed in several ways. The first assessment will be modeled after Dr. Roger Taylor's "Seven Intelligences" model. Each student will choose a way to present a project on Polish and or Hungarian culture. The project may be presented in one or more of the following ways :

1. puppet show
2. travel brochure
3. clay models
4. Power Point or Hyper Studio Presentation
5. costumes and food
6. performance
7. slide presentation
8. video
9. game and or puzzle
10. oral presentation

A rubric will be used to measure progress and assess grades on the above projects.

Sample Rubric :

4 - Project is excellent. No spelling or research errors, creative, well-organized, is easy to understand, neat and colorful.

3- Project is well organized, only minor errors exist, project is creative, easy to understand and neatly prepared.

2- Project is poorly organized. Numerous errors exist , project lacks creativity, project is difficult to understand and sloppy.

1- Project is incomplete, numerous errors exist, project lacks organization and is difficult to understand. It is poorly prepared and sloppy.

Assessment Tool # 2
Critical Thinking Essay Test

1. How have heroes impacted history and cultural growth in Hungary and Poland ? How do Hungarian and Polish heroes compare and contrast with some of America's heroes ? BE SPECIFIC.

2. Who are your heroes ? What characteristics do your heroes possess that makes these people heroes in your eyes. EXPLAIN your answer.

3. Why are heroes important for the growth of national pride in a country ?

4. What challenges confronted the heroes of Hungary and Poland ? How did these challenges contribute to unity and strength in these nations ?

5. How did one or more of the heroes we studied contribute to the betterment of mankind ? EXPLAIN your answer.

Assessment Tool # 3

Interview three people age 70 years and older and ask them to identify their heroes . After each person has identified their heroes ask each of them the following questions :

1. Why is this person your hero ?
2. What historical event may be linked to the hero you have chosen ?
3. Are heroes important to have ?
4. What qualities should a person possess to be considered a hero by someone else ?
5. Are heroes important when studying the history and culture of another nation ?

Interview three people age 35 - 45. Ask these people to identify their heroes and ask them to answer the above questions also.

Interview three high school age friends . Ask them to identify their heroes and to answer the above questions also.

Compare and contrast the answers of the people you interviewed. Did age play a factor in who their heroes are ? How important were historical events in choosing heroes ? How important did each group think heroes are ?

Interview results will be discussed as a class to determine the conclusions.